* Reduction in import duty on palm group of oils by 10 percentage points in August, 2006 and by a further 10-12.5 percentage points in January, 2007. Maintaining tariff value for assessing import duty unchanged at July, 2006 level.

* in the Budget 2007-08, crude as well as refined edible oils have been exempted from additional counterveiling duty of 4 per cent. Duty on sunflower oil, both crude and refined, has been reduced by 15 per cent.

* Ban on export of skimmed milk powder.

* Steps were taken by Reserve Bank of India to reduce liquidity in the system by increasing the cash reserve ratio and repo rates and stepping up operations under the Market Stabilisation Scheme.

Foreign assistance to North-Eastern States

†1572. SHRI DWUENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects being run in North-Eastern States with the assistance of international financial agencies alongwith names of the agencies operating the said projects, project-wise;

(b) if so, the details and main objectives thereof; and

(c) whether Government have been successful in achieving objectives in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Details of the States sector projects being run in North-Eastern States with the assistance from various international financial agencies alongwith their implementation authorities and objectives are given in Statement (See below). The projects are being implemented as per the project implementation plan. The overall success of a project would be known once the project comes to a close.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Statement

Details of projects being run in North Eastern States with the assistance from various international institutions

Development Partner	Name of the Project and Implementing authority	Loan amount	Objectives of the project
1	2	3	4
ADB	Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Programme, Government of Assam	US$ 125 million	to support reform measures under three components (i) reform of State finances, (ii) reform of the fiscal governance, and (iii) reorientation of the role of the State.
ADB	Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Project, Government of Assam	US$25 million	to provide (i) procurement of equipment required to develop and implement integrated public financial management information system for institutional strengthening and (ii) capacity building to support Assam Government's fiscal and governance reform efforts to strengthen its implementation of processes and procedures outlines in the associated programme loan.
ADB	Assam Power Sector * Development Project, Government of Assam	US$100 million	to assist Assam State Electricity Board and its successor companies to (i) improve system capacity and efficiencies by strengthening transmission and distribution system, (ii) increase revenue by introducing a revenue management system and (iii) increase the reach of electricity in rural areas
	Mizoram State Road Project, Government of Mizoram	US$60 million	To improve the management and capacity of the Mizoram core State Road Project.

Development Partner	Name of the Project and Implementing authority	Loan amount	Objectives of the project
World Bank	NE Region Community Resource Management Project, NEC	US$22.9 million	To improve the livelihood of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through improved management of their resource base in a way that contributes to protecting and restoring the environment.
World Bank	Livelihood Improvement Project for the Himalays, Government of Meghalaya	US$39.91 million	To improve the livelihood of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through the promotion of improved livelihood opportunities and strengthening of local institutions that relate to livelihood development.
World Bank	Third Technical Education Project (Multi State)	US$64.9 million	To assist the industrially and economically underdeveloped and geographically remote States of the north eastern region States apart from J&K and the Union Territory of A&N Islands to expand capacity and improve the quality and efficiency of technician (polytechnic) education to meet the specific economic needs of each State.
Japan	Turial Hydro Electric Power Station Project, Government of Mizoram,	Japanese Yen 11695 million	To meet the growing electricity/power and energy demand
Japan	Umiaum Stage-ll Hydro Power Station (R&M) Project, Government of Meghalaya.	Japanese Yen 1964 million	To meet the growing electricity/power demand
Japan	Manipur Sericulture Project, Government of Manipur	Japanese Yen 3962 million	To alleviate the poverty of the rural population through generating self employment opportunities in the areas of sericulture and to meet the increasing demand for silk.